(iv) Criminal Justice.

212. Excluding Revenue Officers who were *Ex-officio* Magistrates, the number of Judges and Magistrates exercising original jurisdiction at the end of the year was 76 (74).

213. The total number of offences reported during the year was 90,371 (81,325). The number of persons brought to trial in the Magistrates' Courts was 1,32,150 (1,19,470) during the year (excluding 441 persons for trial before the Sessions Courts). Of the persons brought to trial, the cases in respect of 1,13,214 (1,10,542) were disposed of. The total number of persons convicted was 79,625 and the number of persons acquitted or discharged was 26,154. The number of persons whose cases were left pending at the end of the year was 18,936 (7,928).

214. The number of persons brought to trial for offences punishable under Special and Local Laws was 90,996 (82,749). The cases against 83,553 persons were disposed of and 72,570 persons were convicted.

Bench Courts

215. The Benches of Honorary Magistrates had before them 29,342 cases involving 33,989 persons as against 26,647 cases involving 29,967 persons in the previous year. They disposed of 26,817 cases involving 31,400 persons.

District Magistrates.

216. The District Magistrates disposed of six cases involving 8 persons as against 20 cases involving 32 persons in the previous year.

217. The average duration of cases in the Courts of Honorary Bench Magistrates, in the Courts of the District Magistrates and in the Sessions Courts was 40·03, 25·0 days and 78·1 days, respectively. In the Courts of other Stipendiary Magistrates, the average duration of trials was 45·72 days.

218. The appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court had for disposal 1,158 (1,394) appeals involving 1,708 (1,906) persons. Of these, 992 (1,161) appeals involving 1,429 (1,525) persons were disposed of, leaving 166 (233) appeals pending disposal at the end of the year. In the Magistrates' Courts, out of 506 (530) cases including 145 cases at the beginning of the year, 393 (385) were disposed of, leaving a balance of 113 (145) at the end of the year. In the Sessions Courts, there were for disposal

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652 cases including 88 appeals pending from the previous year and 599 cases were disposed of leaving 53 cases pending at the end of the year.

219. The total number of criminal appeals for disposal by the High Court was 70 (61). The number of appeals disposed of was 62. In 36 appeals, involving 56 persons, the convictions and sentences were confirmed, in 15 concerning 22 persons, the sentences were reduced or altered and in 11 concerning 37 persons the sentences were reversed. The number of appeals preferred by the Government against the orders of acquittal was 30 including 10 pending from the previous year. Of these, 8 were disposed of leaving 22 against 10 pending at the end of the year. Of the 8 appeals disposed of, in 4 cases the orders of lower Court were upheld, and in the remaining 4 cases, the accused were convicted and sentenced.

220. The number of appeals left pending at the end of the year was 41 involving 134 persons against 33 involving 81 persons during the previous year.

221. The average duration of appeals disposed of by the High Court was 183·69 (114·23) days. The average duration of appeals disposed of by Sessions Judges was 43·1 (39·79) days and that of the appeals disposed of by the Magistrates was 108·2 (51·94) days.

Revision.

222. The number of revision cases pending at the beginning of the year before the Sessions Judges and District Magistrates was 15 and 86, respectively. The total number of cases received during the year was 313 (72) in the Sessions Courts and 241 in the Courts of the District Magistrates. The Sessions Judges disposed of 77 cases leaving 10 against 15 pending at the end of the year. The District Magistrates disposed of 244 (156) cases and left 83 (86) cases pending at the end of the year. The average duration of revision cases disposed of by the Sessions Judges was 71·7 days against 68·9 days, while in the District Magistrates' Courts it was 95·9 days as against 67·8 days in the previous year.

223. Two persons were sentenced to death by the Sessions Judges during the year as against 5 in the previous year. Thirty-one persons were sentenced to transportation for life.

224. The number of persons fined was 74,215 against 43,362 in the previous year. The total amount of fines